



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

JONATHAN HECHT  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
29<sup>TH</sup> MIDDLESEX DISTRICT  
WATERTOWN • CAMBRIDGE

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 22

Committees:

Children, Families & Persons with Disabilities

Municipalities and Regional Government

Transportation

Public Health

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November 13, 2019

Governor Charles D. Baker, Jr.  
Massachusetts State House, Room 360  
Boston, MA 02133

**Re: Student Opportunity Act**

Dear Governor Baker,

I write to urge you to sign the Legislature's forthcoming education funding reform bill and fully fund its implementation in your fiscal year 2021 budget proposal.

The Student Opportunity Act is a critical step we as a Commonwealth must take to close the achievement and opportunity gaps in our K-12 education system. The bill incorporates all five research-backed recommendations of the bipartisan Foundation Budget Review Commission (FBRC). Although some provisions of the Student Opportunity Act are still under consideration by House and Senate conferees, the two chambers approved identical funding rates and set fiscal year 2021 as the first year of implementation. These rates and the seven-year implementation timeline will be coming before you in any final bill enacted by the Legislature.

For my district in Watertown and Cambridge, the funding in the Student Opportunity Act will ensure that our schools meet the needs of all students, including those who are economically disadvantaged, English-language learners, or have special needs. In addition, it provides the necessary funds to keep up with health care costs for school employees and retirees. The bill also includes the FBRC's recommended transparency and accountability provisions, and puts us on track to fully fund charter school mitigation.

Most important, with the passage of this bill, Massachusetts will recommit to its constitutional promise of a quality education for every child, regardless of zip code. I urge you to swiftly

approve this legislation and include its full first year of implementation funding in your forthcoming FY21 budget proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Hecht". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "H".

Jonathan Hecht  
State Representative  
29<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District